

165 CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

165 Civil Engineering Flight activated, 3 Dec 1969

Redesignated 165 Civil Engineering Squadron, 1 Jul 1985

Redesignated 165 Civil Engineer Squadron, Oct 1995

STATIONS

Savannah ANGB, Savannah, GA

ASSIGNMENTS

165 Mission Support Group

COMMANDERS

Maj Walter S. Schaaf

Maj Walker W. Scott, 14 July 1980

Lt Col John H. Stevens, April 1993

LTC Jeffrey R. Tucker

LTC Salvador Sanchez-Troche

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 165th Civil Engineer Flight, as a unit, was federally recognized on 3 December 1969 under the command of Major Walter S. Schaaf Jr. The total authorized strength of the new unit was 4 officers and 81 enlisted people. From that beginning, the unit has grown to its present authorized strength of 4 officers and 115 enlisted people and is under the command of Major Walker W. Scott Jr.

Reductions in the CONUS fire fighter force came in 1970 bringing manpower down from 36 to 20 individuals on the new Prime BEEF program. Fire fighter manning was increased at the 165th during 1976 to 48 personnel and remained at that level until 1995 when once again DOD reductions brought the level down to 24 fire fighters.

In 1970 an era was started for the Air National Guard. The 165th Fire Department was selected as a pilot unit to deploy with fire vehicles and personnel to support an Air Force mission in Texas flying C-5's out of Biggs Army Airfield. The equipment and personnel were loaded on to a C-5A at Hunter Army Airfield for the trip to Texas for two weeks. Many new procedures and ideas arose from this deployment and some are still in use today worldwide. 165th Fire fighter teams have been deployed to many foreign countries such as Germany, Belgium, Spain, England, and the Panama Canal. We have been to almost all of the fifty states in the US and continue to provide services in support of USAF and ANG missions today.

February of 1992 brought a new era to the fire department. The first State of Georgia, Department of Defense fire fighters were brought on the payroll at the 165th Airlift Group. These fire fighters worked in conjunction with the technician and Airport commission fire fighters under the supervision of the ANG Fire Chief.

Starting January 1st 1993, the only full-time fire fighters assigned to the airport were the State O&M fire fighters. This date marked the close of an era for the Auxiliary and Commission fire fighters that provided protection over the years. The new fire fighters assumed the protection of the airport and it's community 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This action was created by an agreement between the Savannah Airport Commission and the Air National Guard signaling the most respectful and honorable end of the Savannah Airport Commission Fire Department and the 165th Auxiliary Fire Department.

In 1993, the Civil Engineering Squadron consisted of its own Prime BEEF members (Civil Engineer and Fire Department), and the 165th Morale, Recreation, and Services Flight (commonly known as "Services"). The combined strength was 148 In 1994, the Services Flight became an independent Flight in the Support Group.

The Squadron continues to hone the skills of its given mission, even though its mission has become more complex. Before 1994, Civil Engineering was a Squadron that performed its field exercises independently of the Wing. Now Civil Engineering trains with the Wing on operational

exercises and inspections, of which our involvement has become recognized as critical.

The Civil Engineer Squadron performs a biennial Prime BEEF skill qualification course at Tyndall AFB, FL known as Silver Flag (formerly known as Base Recovery After Attack). The Squadron has participated in numerous deployments in support of United States Air Force and Army missions to points all over the world including Japan, England, Germany, Spain, Azores, Panama, Puerto Rico, South America and the United States.

In 1995, the Civil Engineers gained responsibility of the Disaster Preparedness Section. 1995 also saw changes that brought the Squadron strength to 137 personnel.

1999 January, the 165th dedicated a new state of the art fire station for the protection of civilian and military aircraft at Savannah International Airport. The old fire station was built in 1957 and had undergone several renovations to keep up with changing times. This newest structure in the Air National Guard complex gives physical evidence to the continuing efforts of the Guard to field the most modern equipment available.

1 Sep 2005 Fourteen personnel assigned to the 165th Civil Engineer Squadron (CES) Georgia ANG, and thirty-five personnel assigned to the 116 CES, Georgia ANG, deployed to Gulfport CRTC to assist with base reconstitution. Seventy Texas ANG Security Forces personnel deployed to Louisiana and twenty-five Delaware ANG, Security Forces personnel deployed to Mississippi.

7 Sep 2005

Air National Guard Fire-Fighting personnel from the 133d Airlift Wing, Minnesota ANG, and the 165th Airlift Wing, Georgia ANG, deployed to Stennis IAP, to help establish around-the-clock airport fire protection operations.

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
Unit yearbook. *165 Tactical Airlift Group, Georgia Air National Guard, Savannah, GA, 1946-1984.*
Unit yearbook. *Georgia Air National Guard History, 1941-2000*